

WASHINGTON.

Congress Heading Off the Gold Gamblers.

Transactions in Gold to Be Regulated by Legislation.

THE VIRGINIA BILL IN THE SENATE.

Gen. Butler's Hostility to the Old Dominion.

MASSACHUSETTS HYPOCRISY UNMASKED.

The Old Bay State Needing Reconstruction.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16, 1870.

The Gold Panic Investigation—Legislation to Control Transactions in Gold.

Although the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House of Representatives in their investigation of the gold panic of September 24th, examined a number of witnesses, it is a decided fact that the object aimed at is not of personal character, but that it is with the intention of implicating any particular persons or clique. The desire of the committee is to elicit from the witnesses called before them such information as will afford them all the details of gold operations, the mode of conducting business by the gold exchange and board and other features which will afford the basis of legislation to regulate and control transactions in gold, as well as to prevent a recurrence of the conspiracy which came so near disturbing the equilibrium of the finances of the country. Congress seems to have come to the conviction that the time has arrived when action to protect legitimate business from a set of gamblers is no longer necessary. It is the desire of the committee to hasten their investigations, so as to be able to prepare a suitable bill and secure its passage at the earliest moment.

The Dominican Treaty—Important Bearings on the Future Policy of the Government.

It is understood that the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate have nearly completed their deliberations upon the Dominican treaty. It is expected at their next meeting the committee will take up the annexation of the island. The treaty will be discussed, all its bearings and with a view to its future influence upon the American policy in regard to the islands lying contiguous to our coasts. The committee are fully aware that their action in the case of St. Domingo will play an important part in our relations with these countries, and will hereafter be quoted as a precedent in the progress of American destiny on this hemisphere. The question, in every phase, is looked upon as one of the most interesting and important that has yet come under the attention of the government.

Delay in Confirming General Sikes's Nomination—Senator Sumner's Opposition—Old Slanders Revived.

The delay in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in acting on the nomination of General Sikes as Minister to Madrid excites some comment among his friends here, who were led to believe that it would be called up and acted upon soon after the opening of the session. It appears that Senator Sumner has never brought the nomination before his committee for action, and it is now said that he has given as his reason the numerous slanderous reports against Sikes, which he has been unable to clear up. His official conduct in Madrid, it was mainly on account of the latter that the committee, or rather its chairman, asked the Secretary of State to furnish him with a copy of the correspondence between Sikes and the Department of State, and also between Sikes and the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs. Some of Sikes's friends in the Senate propose to make inquiry in executive session to Sumner's reason for holding back Sikes's nomination. The latter's friends are quite numerous in the Senate, and some of them being thoroughly familiar with the nature of the charges against him, are prepared to meet and refute them.

The Virginia Bill in the Senate—Butler's Opposition.

It is the intention of Senator Trumbull to move to-morrow to substitute the bill which passed the House for the admission of Virginia for the bill now before the Senate. They are in substance the same, and the passage of the House bill will save time, besides preventing it from again being brought up in the House, Butler having threatened to upset the measure when he comes back, if a chance offered. The friends of Bingham's bill say they have made a canvass of the Senate, and they are satisfied that when a vote is reached to-morrow there will be a fair majority in its favor. The indications are that the Virginia Senators and members elect will be admitted to both Houses of Congress before the close of this week.

Presentation of the Hawaiian Envoys to the President.

Mr. Elihu R. Allen was introduced on Saturday to the President by the Secretary of State, and delivered his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Hawaii. He made the following remarks on the occasion:—

MR. PRESIDENT—I have the honor to present to you my letters of credence from His Majesty the King of the Hawaiian Islands. He has expressed a desire to express to the President his earnest desire that the friendly relations which have always existed between the Hawaiian Islands and the United States should be perpetual and strengthened. You are aware, Mr. President, that the people of the Hawaiian Islands are more numerous than all other foreigners here, and that they have important interests in agriculture, navigation and commerce. They have largely contributed to build up a commerce with the United States, which may be increased to the benefit of both countries. The products of the Hawaiian Islands are of great value to the other, and hence all reasonable facilities for an interchange will be mutually advantageous. In view of the geographical position of the islands, which afford a central and safe port for shipping, and of the commercial relations with the United States, some further treaty stipulations are regarded as desirable and highly important. The King desires to accept the most liberal policy, and no fees should be levied on the importation of goods from the Hawaiian Islands, and the same spirit will mark his course in the future.

The President replied as follows:—

MR. ALLEN—I am pleased to receive you as the representative of a friendly and powerful country so interesting to the United States. The Kingdom of Hawaii, I desire to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries is fully recognized by me. I am well aware of the intimate business and personal relations to which you refer, and have every disposition to strengthen them by such further treaty stipulations as may be deemed to be advantageous or necessary. It is hoped that your official influence here may contribute to this result.

Fetters for the Reconstruction of Massachusetts.

A petition signed by a number of citizens of Massachusetts has been forwarded to Representative Cox, of New York, with the request that he submit it to Congress. The petitioners pray that their State be remanded to a territorial government for its reasonable course in 1842, its unrepentant denying the right of suffrage to those who cannot read and write, and its connection with the Hartford Convention. Mr. Cox means to present the petition as requested by its signers.

A Short Session of Congress in Prospect—Contested Election Cases.

A number of the members of Congress express themselves in favor of a comparatively early adjournment, some of them thinking that with industry they can finish the necessary legislation by the 1st of May. Many bills have already been prepared by the committees, several of them having sat during the holidays for that purpose. Owing to the large number of contested election cases, at least thirty of

them, but few of which, however, have been prepared for action in the House, it is supposed that, on the aggregate, at least three weeks will be consumed in disposing of them; but as to the other subjects of national character they can be passed upon in the same length of time. Such are the private views of practical legislators concerning adjournment.

Meeting of the Congressional Temperance Society—Important Movement Suggested.

The Congressional Temperance Society held a meeting to-night at the Metropolitan Methodist church. The house was densely crowded with ladies and gentlemen. After singing by the choir and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Newman, Senator Wilson, president of the society, read the following recommendation of the society:—

Believing that the habitual use of intoxicating liquors is a blemish on the national character, and a crime; that there is safety alone in total abstinence, and that the personal pledge and co-operative effort tend to secure and maintain such abstinence, the Congressional Temperance Society suggests and recommends to the members of Congress, and the numerous philanthropic and patriotic throughout the land to hold simultaneous meetings in their several towns, townships and city wards, on the 23d of February next, to the effect:—That the members of the organization of union temperance societies based on the simple pledge of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, and to adopt practical measures to have such pledge presented to every man, woman and child over ten years of age, and to have the members of the Christian churches, millions of children in the Sabbath and public schools, and millions of others who, it is believed, will be persuaded to pledge their faith, truth and honor to the abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks, and this society believes if a concerted, vigorous and persistent effort were made that day, it not only could, but should, within a few months, be thus pledged and enrolled.

Senators Pomeroy, of Kansas; Wiley, of West Virginia; Patterson, of New Hampshire; and Buckingham, of Connecticut, and Representatives Whitmore, of South Carolina, and Ferry, of Michigan, together with Vice President Colver, respectively addressed the meeting. Senator Wilson said it was proposed to hold meetings every two weeks during the session of Congress if churches could be procured for that purpose.

Meeting of the Indian Committee—Important Policy Reviewed.

A joint meeting of the United States Indian Committee, the Senate and House Committees on Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner Parker was held yesterday at the Department of the Interior. The session lasted from ten to four o'clock, and was largely attended. Senator Buckingham, of Connecticut, was chairman, and Mr. E. B. Farnsworth, of Illinois, Secretary. Prayer by ex-Governor Lane, of Indiana. Senator Harlan asked Mr. Brunet, chairman of the Committee, to give an account of the trip made in the Indian Territory by himself and colleagues. Commissioners Dodge and Bishop, which he did briefly, though graphically. Commissioner Colver was then asked to repeat his report of the day previous on Arizona and New Mexico.

The Secretary of the Interior urged upon the Congressional committee the value of the services of this commission, which, he said, although it had been in existence only six months, had visited half the Indian tribes in the Union, at an expense so small that they cost less than one-fifth of the small appropriation of \$25,000, and served wholly without pay. He considered it of great value to the department, and hoped Congress would continue it permanently.

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Senator Corbett, of Oregon, regretted the removal of the Rev. Mr. Wilbur from his mission in Oregon, and spoke highly of his work. He hoped the Commission would visit Oregon next summer.

Senator Harlan called earnest attention to the serious difficulties in the way of dealing with the Indians, or even interviews, with the Indians to make them move from their old homes required their consent, and that involved a bargain, which was a treaty. A general discussion here ensued on the wisdom of abandoning treaties, in which Senators Ross, Harlan and Corbett, and Congressmen Clarke, Dowe and others joined.

General Parker, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, complained of the want of discretionary powers in the expenditure of money or supplies for Indians. It frequently happened some trifling claims in the act defining its appropriations kept money tied up in his hands for months. He had now over \$100,000 for the Navajos, which he could not use from this restriction. He believed in abolishing the treaty system, and thought reservation essential.

Commissioner Colver conducted the session with an earnest appeal for the Indians in Alaska, giving a favorable account of both the people and the country.

Territorial Laws to Be Enforced Against the Montana Indians.

Last fall Malcolm Clark, a prominent citizen of Montana Territory, was murdered by Blackfoot Indians in his own house. The murderers were indicted, and Mr. P. Langford came to Washington, by request of the authorities and citizens, to ask of the President that the United States Marshal should proceed, with whatever force was necessary, to execute warrants of arrest. The Montana delegate, Mr. Cavanaugh, strongly urged the action of the Executive. The President fully recognized the duty of the government, but some doubt having been expressed in the Cabinet as to whether civil process could be executed against the resistance of an entire Indian tribe, the question was not immediately determined, and information just received from Montana indicates that the most resolute measures to execute the criminal laws of the Territory have been adopted. On the 23d of December Mayor Sully and Captain Pope, accompanied by United States Marshal Wheeler and an adequate military force, left Helena for Teton river to demand the Blackfoot Indians the surrender of the murderers of Clark, and it is necessary to arrest them by force.

Arrival of a Delegation of Cherokees—Indian Settlers on Cherokee Lands.

A delegation of Cherokees, headed by Mr. Downing, their chief, have arrived at Washington. The treaty made last year between them and the government was not ratified by the Senate for want of time, and they're here more especially with reference to that subject. Under the treaty of 1866 the government acquired the right to settle Indians upon Cherokee territory, the condition being that the price of the lands thus occupied should be agreed upon between the Cherokees and the settlers; but in case of disagreement, as to the price, the President is authorized to fix the price. It appears, however, that many of the Indians already settled are without money to pay for the land, and have not sufficient intelligence and skill to make good the obligation. Accordingly it became necessary (the Cherokees having received no compensation for parting with their lands, and having an acknowledged fee simple under former treaties) to make a new treaty—the one now pending before the Senate—by which it is proposed to sell 12,000,000 or 15,000,000 acres to the government for about \$2,000,000, in order that the Cherokees may have no further complications with other tribes, and that the government in the settlement of the Indians may have the entire control of them, besides paying the compensation due to the Cherokees for the lands now appropriated by the government. The Cherokees will remain on the land on which their nation is now settled. There is every prospect, under present circumstances, that the treaty will be ratified.

National Woman's Suffrage Convention.

Next week the National Woman's Suffrage Convention will be held in this city. The leading objects are stated to be the enfranchisement of women in the District of Columbia and the passage of the sixteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States to secure that object. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, Bishop Simpson, Mr. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Theodore Tilton and others will be present.

Sunday Schools for Religious Culture of the Colored Race.

An organization under the title of the Island Institute for Instruction in Religion and Sunday Schools has been organized. The object of the organization is to establish Sunday schools in the colored churches, and to have them conducted by the colored people. The organization is composed of the following officers: President, A. S. Fisher, Commissioner of Patents, Vice President, and A. J. Brown, treasurer. It is

designed mainly to afford instruction and religious culture to about 5,000 colored people living in the southern part of Washington, where they outnumber the whites six to one. A very large and encouraging meeting held to-day was addressed by Professor B. Waterhouse Hawkins, of London, and Hon. T. W. Ferry, of Michigan.

Investigation of the Affairs of the Public Printer.

Mr. Clapp, the Public Printer, annoyed by the newspaper and private attacks upon his official integrity, has had interviews with members of the Committee on Printing in each house, urging that they thoroughly investigate his conduct, in order that he may have an opportunity to be heard in his own defence. No direct charge against him has been made by members of Congress, but rather by implication. There seems to be no doubt that his request will be complied with.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Prince Arthur's Expected Visit.

The Queen instructs him to pay his respects to President Grant—The Movement to Annex the British North American Possessions—Minister Thornton Not Unwilling—England Considered Not Opposed—Lord Morpeth and Mr. Fish.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 16, 1870.

PRINCE ARTHUR'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

The speculations in regard to the object of Prince Arthur's visit to the capital of the nation—that is, so far as any political or diplomatic significance is attached to it—are all at sea. The son of his royal mother comes here simply as a matter of international etiquette, to pay his respects to the sovereign of the great American republic. Her Majesty, the Queen, wrote to the Prince telling him that he must not neglect to pay his respects to President Grant and to express to him the high regard which she holds him personally, as well as in the capacity of Chief Magistrate of the United States. I am informed that her Majesty has not only signified her wishes privately to the Prince, but that, more appropriately still, she has caused her Minister in this country to say to Secretary Fish on no account could she allow her son, while so near the United States, to omit this pleasant duty of paying a visit to the President.

Prince Arthur is expected to arrive here on the 23rd or 24th inst. Minister Thornton has made extensive arrangements to receive the Prince and to make the few days of his sojourn in this city as pleasant as possible.

Mr. Thornton has issued cards for a select dinner party, to occur on Friday, the 23rd, in honor of the Prince, and it is understood that the guests will include the British Legation, some of the Cabinet Ministers and members of the diplomatic corps will attend. It is expected that the Prince will not tarry here more than four or five days, when he will go to New York and have an opportunity of seeing the American elephant in its most expansive condition.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS AND BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ANNEXATION.

You need not be surprised to find the present agitation of the subject of annexing to the United States the whole of British North America, in satisfaction of the celebrated Alabama claims, take a practical shape before long. There is more in the matter than is generally supposed. I am certain our own government is highly favorable to the project, and I have excellent reasons for believing that her Majesty's government would not be very averse to permitting the British North American provinces to "slide" into the republican family of States. By this I do not mean that John Bull would ever consent to let his provinces come to us as an acknowledged settlement of the difficulties with his American neighbor, but that he would never do so to his proud, even now, when he is powerless in Europe, to make a settlement that would involve what might be called an act derogatory to his honor and pride. But John Bull would never condescend to say "Here, Jonathan, you can have all our North American provinces. We own up that we tried to injure you when you were in trouble; we admit we allowed Confederate privateers to be fitted out and manned in our ports, and that we are responsible for the damage thereby resultant to your commerce. We confess that we have sinned grievously in thought, word and action, and now we are ready to make amends—all in our power. Here is Canada."

You and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, New France, and the great Columbia. Take them all and give us a receipt in full. Repeat that while Mr. Bull could never be brought to such an open confession and repentant mood as that, still he would have no objection to doing the thing in a roundabout manner. You know your very proud man, sometimes when his honor and personal safety are involved, is glad to find some loophole through which he can escape without endangering either of those precious articles. Mr. Bull's loophole in this matter is the independence of his North American provinces. If his forefathers provinces told him they want to be free he will say "Go, and peace be with you. God speed. We have no objections to your independent aspirations, and, in fact, are rather pleased than otherwise."

"Then, Mr. Bull, having thus spoken, and his provinces having cut themselves from all connection with the venerable gentleman, of course the latter would have nothing more to do with advising or shaping the colonial policy. The provinces could do just as they like, and they would most certainly like annexation in preference to erecting a separate republic of their own. Trade is what they want, trade unhampered by restrictions or conditions, and such trade they could only have by annexation."

Now this is not a fancy picture. As I remarked above, I have very good reason to think that Great Britain would not only not object, but be glad to let the other side do as they please. I telegraphed you the other day that the British Minister Thornton on the subject, from which it may be inferred that his government will be favorable to any reasonable project of annexation not opposed by the provinces themselves, and at the same time, which will be accepted as a tacit settlement of the Alabama claims. Mr. Thornton, when told of the resolution introduced by Senator Corbett and of the peculiar strong remarks thereon made by Senator Howard, of Michigan, rather coolly observed that, for one, he would be glad to find the American government proposing some definite plan of settlement and presenting some definite plan of demands, inasmuch as heretofore our government had dealt in the most unsatisfactory manner with a mere straw coming, as it does, from such a source as her Majesty's Minister to this country. It is a clear indication of the drift of England's policy in regard to her American colonies and annexation, and decidedly favorable to the latter.

INTERESTING SCRAP OF HISTORY—LORD MORPETH AND MR. FISH.

I am in possession of an interesting scrap of history, calculated to throw some light upon the British North American colonial policy and the feeling in England even twelve years ago in regard to the project of annexation. At that time the Hon. Hamilton Fish, our present Secretary of State, was in England in an unofficial capacity. He became well acquainted with many of the leading men of that country, and had frequent opportunities of conversing with them on political subjects. Among others with whom he thus talked were Lord Morpeth and the late Earl Derby, and particularly the former, with whom his friendship was of long standing, and with whom, also, he was in the habit of exchanging views with the utmost freedom. Lord Morpeth, by the way, was also a very great friend of Charles Sumner. Well, at the time to which I allude there was a lively discussion going on between the United States and England regarding the right claimed by the latter to board and search American ships suspected of being engaged in the notorious slave trade. English vessels had, in point of fact, overhauled and searched three or four American vessels, and it was

on this account that our government had protested against them to do so.

One day, while Mr. Fish was dining with Lord Morpeth, at his splendid residence at Grosvenor, the subject of overhauling and searching vessels suspected of being slave traders, Lord Morpeth caused to be introduced Mr. Fish. His lordship asked Mr. Fish's opinion on the subject, and Mr. Fish, who had no official position, and could only speak as a private citizen, while he belonged to the party in opposition to the administration of President Buchanan (then in power), after he felt bound to state that on a question of the great American vessels his own sympathies were with the American government, and that such an act could not be tolerated.

Lord Morpeth then said that Earl Derby, though not agreeing with him in some points, had requested him to speak with Mr. Fish on this subject, and maintain what might be the policy of the great British Empire in the matter presented by President Buchanan. On matters of foreign policy, said Lord Morpeth, all Englishmen agree, without regard to political opinions.

Mr. Fish replied that the same remark was true of Americans. No matter how they might differ on questions of domestic policy, they all looked as one man when the national honor was in jeopardy, and forgot local divisions in the more important consideration of the national standing of the country. Americans would never allow any country to exercise a right of search over American vessels on any pretence. America would not war with England fifty years before that time for that very same principle.

Lord Morpeth asked, for instance, Mr. Sumner on questions of domestic policy, that all looked as one man when the national honor was in jeopardy, and forgot local divisions in the more important consideration of the national standing of the country. Americans would never allow any country to exercise a right of search over American vessels on any pretence. America would not war with England fifty years before that time for that very same principle.

"Nevertheless," said Mr. Fish, "Mr. Sumner nor no other American would tolerate such searches even for the very proper purpose of destroying the slave trade."

The conversation then happened to turn upon the British North American provinces, and it was to what took place in this connection that I desire to call particular attention. Lord Morpeth spoke very freely, and did not hesitate to state that the British government had long been desirous of seeing the great American republics united, and that he was not at all disposed to see the British North American provinces separated from the great American family.

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The party broke up about ten o'clock, and the guests were unanimous in the opinion that the dinner was one of the finest, in all respects, ever given in the White House.

The reception of Secretary Fish are next to those of the President, the most largely attended, as well as the most fashionable. Here the foreign ministers, with their wives, daughters and attendants, seem to congregate in larger numbers than at any other place.

The Secretary occupies the elegant mansion of ex-Secretary Morgan, at the corner of Broadway and 11th street. It is furnished in the most handsome style, and everything about it has an air of elegance, combined with comfort and heavy jewelry of unique value, and of course, only the elite and distinguished are allowed to enter the princely mansion on such occasions.

At the reception given last Friday evening Mr. Fish was a heavy white silk, with narrow black stripes on the neck and short sleeves, head dress of black velvet and lace, with heavy jewelry of unique value, and of course, only the elite and distinguished are allowed to enter the princely mansion on such occasions.

In addition to the diplomatic corps there were a large number of officers of the army and navy, with prominent officers of the army and navy. The first evening reception of Secretary Fish was given at the White House, at his residence in 11th street, near the corner of Broadway.

Hereafter the popular receptions in Washington were those of the President and the speaker of the House. There are no "cards" issued for these receptions and everybody goes who can get up a respectable appearance.

You see dignitaries of State, with their silks, satins and diamonds, rubbing against \$1,200 dollar dresses, and it may be messengers in the department.

The Speaker's reception is eminently a democratic institution, as it should be, for nearly every Speaker is a candidate for the Presidency or the Vice Presidency.

Speaker Thaine was honored on this occasion with a very large number of callers. His spacious parlors were thronged with the wit, wisdom, learning, fashion, beauty and gaiety of the capital. There was less formality and more unobtrusive intercourse among the visitors here than at the residence of Secretary Fish.

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